

**State of Vermont**  
**Executive Department**  
**A Proclamation**

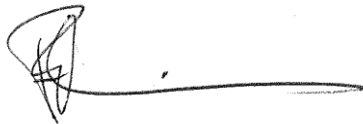
- WHEREAS,** children, Vermont's most precious resource, must be guaranteed their health, well-being and protection; and
- WHEREAS,** of all the 2014 substantiated child abuse incidents in Vermont, 40 percent were related to sexual abuse and 16 percent to physical abuse.
- WHEREAS,** infants and toddlers have died as a result of abusive head trauma and as stated in Act One of 2009: "Prevention is the most important and most often overlooked tool available to the state to fight violence against children." While there is a coordinated statewide approach to stop abuse before it happens, it must provide safety and treatment for victims and offenders; and
- WHEREAS,** firm action by Vermont's judicial system and the Vermont Department for Children and Families and Vermont's Child Advocacy Centers to protect children who have been abused, coupled with prevention and early intervention programs and initiatives, such as Circle of Parents®, home visitation, Early Essential Education, SAFE-T, Care for Kids, KidSafe Collaborative, Commit to Kids, Strengthening Families Framework, quality child care and the Nurturing Parenting Programs®, significantly contribute to the reduction of child abuse in Vermont; and
- WHEREAS,** all forms of child abuse, sexual, physical, emotional, and neglect can lead to physical and behavioral health problems including heart disease, cancer, high blood pressure, obesity, substance abuse and incarceration which inevitably affects our families, schools, and communities; and
- WHEREAS,** parents, foster parents, social workers, health and mental health professionals, educators, law enforcement officers, victim advocates, home visitors, parent educators, domestic violence and rape crisis workers, hot line workers, mentors, guardian ad litem and other volunteers demonstrate a daily commitment to children and families who fall prey to violence;

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Peter Shumlin, Governor of the State of Vermont, do hereby proclaim  
April, 2016, as

**CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH**

In Vermont

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont  
on this 5th day of April, A.D., 2016.



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Peter Shumlin  
Governor

